

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

DOT-00 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 INT-05

GSA-02 /080 W

----- 058763

R 091400Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2133

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLAS DURBAN 0079

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BC, CG, SF, MZ, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: DURBAN HARBOR AND RHODESIAN SHIPMENTS

REF: PRETORIA 1007, STATE 055861

1. DURBAN SUNDAY TRIBUNE MARCH 7 CORROBORATES PRETORIA
1007 INFORMATION RE STATEMENTS BY SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS
GENERAL MANAGE LOUBSER. LOUBSER STRESSED THAT IN VIEW
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OF COOLED-OFF SA ECONOMY AND UPDATED RAIL AND SERVICE

FACILITIES, SA NOW HAS EXTRA HARBOR CAPACITY.

2. LOCAL FORECAST IS THAT DURBAN HARBOR ACTIVITY WILL INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY DURING NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS BECAUSE OF CLOSURE RHODESIA/MOZAMBIQUE BORDER. DURBAN PORT DIRECTOR BEN LOMBARD HAS PUBLICALLY NOTED HARBOR'S PRESENTLY UNUSED CAPACITY AND FACT DURBAN IS NOW NEAREST PORT TO RHODESIA AND THEREFORE LOGICAL FIRST CHOICE FOR ALLEVIATING RHODESIA'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS.

3. LOMBARD TOLD CONGENOFF MARCH 9 THAT DURBAN HARBOR UTILIZATION RATE DURING FEBRUARY AVERAGED ABOUT 71 PERCENT. HE INDICATED RAILWAYS ARE HAVING NO TROUBLE NOW IN REMOVING CARGOES AND THAT OVERALL UTILIZATION RATE SHOULD SOON IMPROVE. LOMBARD CONFIRMED EXPECTATION THAT RHODESIAN SHIPMENTS WILL SOON BE HANDLED IN DURBAN BUT COULD NOT YET SAY WHAT TYPES OF CARGOES, OR WHETHER RHODESIAN CHROME OR OTHER MINERALS WOULD BE HANDLED. HE DID INDICATE THAT RHODESIAN MAIZE EXPORTS WOULD NOT BE TRANSPORTED THROUGH DURBAN SINCE THE PRESENT FACILITY IS ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE SA MAIZE EXPORTS ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY.
FARBER

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